

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2048

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 8621

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SWEL, PK

SUBJ: WILD BOAR ERADICATION IN PUNJAB

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 3641 (B) LAHORE 1010 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. CONGEN LAHORE HAS LEARNED THAT SOME PUNJAB OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT OF INJECTING WILD BOARS WITH SWINE FEVER VIRUS. EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN AGAIN TO MFA AND WILL DO SO ALSO TO HEALTH MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN LAHORE REPORTED PER REFTEL B THE FOLLOWING:

2. QUOTE: REFTEL (A) DATED APRIL 24 REPORTED EMBASSY DEMARCHE TO MFA DIRGEN KHURSHID HYDER ON SUBJECT OF WILD BOAR ERADICATION, AND HER PROMISE TO CONTACT AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND LET US KNOW ACTION TAKEN.

3. QUOTE. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING MORE HERE ON POSSIBLE SWINE FEVER VIRUS PROBLEM UNTIL THIS WEEK. HOWEVER, ARTICLE IN PAKISTAN TIMES AUGUST 28, DATELINED SAHIWAL AUGUST 27, REPORTS THAT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SAHIWAL DISTRICT HAD ORDERED LOCAL DIRECTOR OF LIVESTOCK
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AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT TO LAUNCH "COMPREHENSIVE DRIVE"

AGAINST WILD BOAR INCLUDING FORMATION OF SPECIAL TEAMS OF FOREST OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES "TO CATCH WILD BOARD TO BE INJECTED WITH VIRUS". DC REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THIS AT MEETING OF LOCAL VILLAGERS. (SAHIWAL DISTRICT BORDERS ON FAZILKA AREA OF INDIA).

4. QUOTE: FYI: I RAISED GENERAL QUESTION LAST MAY IN CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH GOPUNJAB SECRETARY FOR LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT WHO POOH-POOHED IDEA OF VIRUS INJECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH HE CONSIDERED MAINLY HOT AIR TO PLACATE FARMERS. PROBLEM, HOWEVER, REMAINS VITAL ONE.

JOE WHEELER AND BILL THOMAS (AID) WILL RECALL THAT DURING OUR POW-POW WITH FARMERS AT VILLAGE IN LYALLPUR DISTRICT AUGUST 16, LATTER CITED CROP DAMAGE BY WILD BOARS AS ONE OF THEIR FOREMOST PROBLEMS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SOLUTIONS, THOUGH, THEY DISPARAGED EFFICACY OF SWINE FEVER VIRUS INJECTION PROGRAM AND ADVOCATED INSTEAD MASSIVE, COORDI-

NATED BOAR SHOOTING CAMPAIGN BY ARMY,POLICE AND PRIVATE HUNTERS. UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT. EMBOFF DISCUSSED LAHORE REPORT WITH MFA DIRGEN HYDER SEPTEMBER 11 AND SHE SAID SHE WOULD LOOK AGAIN INTO THE MATTER. SHE SAID THAT LAST APRIL WHEN EMBASSY LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE WITH HER, SHE HAD PASSED INFORMATION ON THE TOXICITY OF THE VIRUS TO THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. EMBASSY IS ALSO TRYING TO SEE GOP HEALTH SECRETARY ANSARI (WHO IS OUT OF TOWN) ON THE SUBJECT. HE WAS ALSO CONTACTED LAST APRIL.
BYROADE

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